

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

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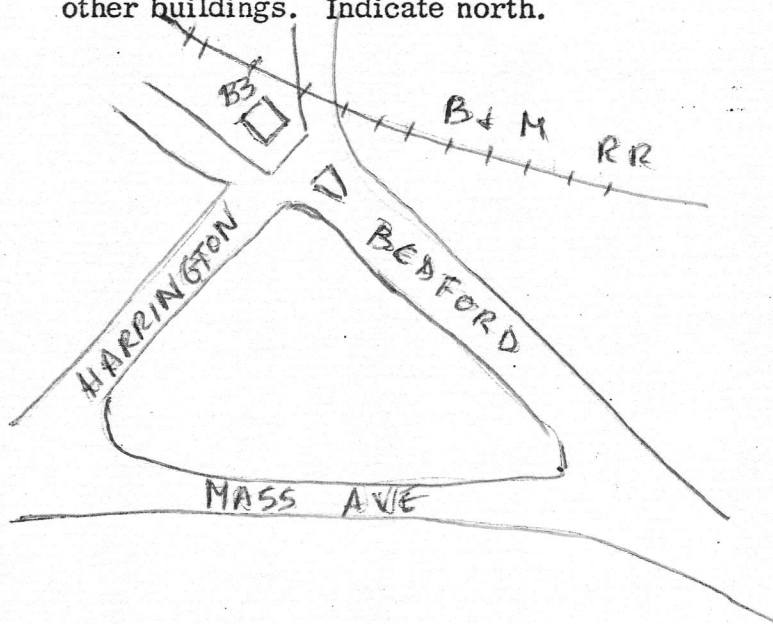
NK DISTRICT 410

In Area no. B, AC	Form no. 53
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n Lexington
 Address 1 Hancock Street
 Building Masonic Temple (First Normal School)
 Present use _____
 Present owner Simon W. Robinson
Lodge of Free Masons
 Description: _____
1822
 Source Lex. Hist. Soc. Proceedings
 Notes GRK. Revival

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features Dentil Course at cornice
Flat Pilasters At Corners, by door from
foundation to cornice, elegant Weathervane
 Altered Yes Date Frequently
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 75'
 Approximate distance of building from street
20'

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by E.W. Reinhardt
 Organization Lex. Hist. Comm.
 Date August 20, 1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Lexington Academy

Original use Secondary School

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates 1839-1844 First Normal School in Nation

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> x </u>	Religion	<u> x </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ Humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> </u>				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

1839-1844. Building housed first normal school or teacher's college in nation. Horace Mann had persuaded Mass. State legislature to establish the institution. Abolitionist Rev. Samuel J. May was principal of school in 1842.

Occupied by nearly formed Hancock Church Society (Congregational) from 1868 until construction of present building on Mass. Ave. (Form B-15) in 1892.

Bought by Simon W. Robinson Lodge, 1913.

Descrip. cont. Granite foundation on main block, stone on additions to rear. Hip roof. Col. Rev. porch on N.W. side entrance. (Pictures: Lexington Library-building as Congregational Church w. spire SPNEA - Lex. unmounted files - building as "Memorial Hall" no date - style - Queen Anne shingle.

Historical significance

Banner weathervane may be original to the building. Original drawing of Lexington Normal School (1839) in the collection of the Lexington Historical Society. Also, photographs 1880s and 1890s.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Worthen, Edward. A Calendar History of Lexington - p-54, p. 61, p. 63
p. 72, p. 91

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